

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 958

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor Nick Pappas on the occasion of his retirement from Youth Town.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in recognizing a gentleman who has devoted his career and his heart to helping young people conquer the demons of drug and alcohol addictions; and

WHEREAS, Nick Pappas served with distinction as the executive director of Youth Town, an accredited facility that provides residential treatment services, services for substance use conditions, and wilderness and therapeutic outdoor services for young men; and

WHEREAS, after twenty-one years at the helm, Mr. Pappas recently retired, although he remains an integral part of the institution by serving as its West Tennessee ambassador, in which position he promotes Youth Town on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pappas came to Youth Town in November of 1992 with a command from God to honor Him; he saw many miracles occur during his tenure there, but Mr. Pappas humbly gives God the credit and the glory; and

WHEREAS, when Mr. Pappas began his service with Youth Town, the facility had ten staff members and a \$275,000 annual budget; today, Youth Town has sixty staffers, an annual budget of \$3.36 million, and is debt free; and

WHEREAS, although these statistics are impressive, they are only a reflection of the real work that is being done; under Mr. Pappas' leadership, thousands of young men have come to know Jesus Christ as Lord while recovering from substance addiction at Youth Town; and

WHEREAS, Youth Town added two dorms, an administration building, and a cafeteria, remodeled two cottages, and became an accredited school under Mr. Pappas' inspired guidance; and

WHEREAS, other highlights of Mr. Pappas' exemplary tenure include the George Thomas, Jr. Academy, which is fully licensed by the U.S. Department of Education; a fully accredited adventure course; the Youth Challenge Program, which served 800 at-risk juvenile offenders with a success rate of 84% and saved the state millions of dollars; an outpatient counseling program; and planning for an alcohol and drug treatment program for young women; and

WHEREAS, Nick Pappas served his community with concern and compassion, and he should be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Nick Pappas on the occasion of his retirement as executive director of Youth Town, commend his ongoing commitment to helping young people with their substance abuse problems, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success in his new role as West Tennessee ambassador for Youth Town.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.